

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 /052 W
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R 130814Z SEP 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5001
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHARAHAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMOBASSY KHARTOUM 53
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 1619

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, IZ
SUBJECT: BOYCOTT: INTERVIEW WITH IRAQI MINISTRY OF
TRADE OFFICIALS

REF: (A) USDOC 15309 (NOTAL), (B) BAGHDAD 1468 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 205988 (NOTAL), (D) BAGHDAD 1106.

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1. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MET SEPT 8 WITH MINISTRY
OF TRADE DIRECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBLE FOR BOYCOTT
AFFAIRS KHALID RAHMAN AL-DURI AND DIRECTOR OF BOYCOTT
OFFICE IKBAL MUNIR.

2. AL-DURI DENIED THAT GOI HAD ISSUED DIRECTIVE

SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN RECENT WALL STREET JOURNAL, MEED, AND MID-EAST MARKETS ARTICLES THAT THE GOI HAD ORDERED ITS PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS TO BUY FROM OTHER THAN US SOURCES IF POSSIBLE. HE REPEATED LINE TAKEN EARLIER BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BOYCOTT DIRECTOR HASSAN ABDUL HAMEED THAT SOME GOI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS MAY PREFER, HOWEVER, NON-US SOURCING IN ORDER TO AVOID BOYCOTT PROBLEMS. BOYCOTT OFFICE DIRECTOR MUNIR IN REVEALING REMARK AFTER READING MID-EAST MARKETS REPORT SAID, "THE TRUTH IS MIXED."

3. BASED ON INFORMATION IN STATE 205988, COMATT DENIED THAT USDOC HAD CONFIRMED TO MID-EAST MARKETS THE EXISTENCE OF DIRECTIVE DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE.

4. AL-DURI SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO ADD TO COMMENTS HE MADE IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH COMATT ON BOYCOTT MATTERS (SEE BAGHDAD 1340) AND THAT HE WAS NOW AWAITING US IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS OF BOYCOTT TOPICS IN ARAB LEAGUE AND THE DECISIONS OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. HE CONFIRMED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH COMATT ON BOYCOTT ISSUES AFTER US IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS ARE ISSUED, BUT SAID THAT PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY BOYCOTT DIRECTOR HASSAN ABDUL HAMEED.

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4. COMMENT: WE TEND TO BELIEVE AL-DURI AND ABDUL HAMEED'S EXPLANATION THAT NO FORMAL DIRECTIVE AS DESCRIBED IN PRESS HAS BEEN ISSUED BUT THAT NONETHELESS SOME GOI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE IN EFFECT PRACTICING SUCH A POLICY. MUNIR'S COMMENT THAT "TRUTH IS MIXED" MAY BE REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE RCC RESOLUTION (REPORTED IN BAGHDAD 489) WHICH SAID GOI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS MUST ENFORCE IRAQI BOYCOTT REGULATIONS IN ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING US COMPANIES. IN VIEW OF US ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW, A LOGICAL RESPONSE BY IRAQI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS TO SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD BE TO SEEK NON-US SOURCING IF POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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